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February 6, 2007

The Honorable Tam Doduc, Chairperson
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814



RE: Support DWR / SWRCB additional Prop 50, Chapter 8 Funding

Dear Chairperson Doduc:

The City of Corona is one of the many agencies that benefit from the Western Municipal Water District Critical Integrated Regional Water Project, which includes the Riverside-Corona Feeder. I understand that as a result of recent workshops throughout the state, the California Department of Water Resources and the State Water Resources Control Board have recommended additional funding for projects under the first funding cycle of State Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Implementation Program. As such we respectfully request that the Department of Water Resources (DWR) swiftly allocate remaining Proposition 50, Chapter 8 funds to those organizations which had high ranking plans that qualified for round 2, but did not receive grant awards in the last funding cycle such as the Santa Ana Watershed Integrated Plan.

As you may know, the Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority (SAWPA)'s Integrated Plan is ranked as first runner up on the DWR preliminary list of recommended plans for the first funding cycle of the State Proposition 50, Chapter 8 Implementation Grant Program. SAWPA has several projects that are merely awaiting funding and can be implemented immediately once the monies are received.

The SAWPA Plan includes Western's Riverside-Corona Feeder, a long-term drought-proofing project yielding 40,000 acre feet of new water while integrating water resources and multiple benefits from a wide variety of agencies and organizations in three counties. In a watershed renowned for its successful stakeholder collaboration and use of inter-agency cooperation, Western's project is integrated with many others in a portfolio ranked among the top 16 submitted under Step 2 implementation.

I would also ask that you consider the urgent need that is driving SAWPA's application. As one of the fastest growing regions in the United States, the Santa Ana watershed has come under tremendous demands in the last decade. In order to ensure that we are able to accommodate this growth, we are in need of the integrated regional water infrastructure contained within the SAWPA plan.

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Given these facts, timely state funding of SAWPA's grant application would not only yield swift results, but also be a tremendous investment in a region that continues to grow.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to the many positive impacts this funding will result in.

Sincerely,



Beth Groves
City Manager

cc:

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Senator Jim Battin
Senator Dennis Hollingsworth
Senator Bob Dutton
Assembly Member Paul Cook
Assembly Member John Benoit
Assembly Member Kevin Jeffries
Assembly Member Bill Emmerson
Assembly Member Todd Spitzer
Mr. Lester Snow, California Department of Water Resources
Ms. Moira Topp, Sloat Higgins Jensen